

PETITION

OF THE

RELIGIOUS ORDER OF THE "LADIES OF THE SACRED  
HEART," AT THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI,

PRAYING

*That a charitable donation, sent to them from the city of Paris, may pass  
duty free.*

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JANUARY 9, 1840.

Referred to the Committee on Finance, and ordered to be printed.

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*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in  
Congress assembled:*

The petition of Madam Catharine Thieffry, Superior of the Religious Order of the "Ladies of the Sacred Heart," and Madam De Kersaint, Religious of the Sacred Heart, at the city of St. Louis, Missouri,

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS TO YOUR HONORABLE BODY:

That many years since an academy, for the education of females, was established in this city, under the direction of the ladies of the said order: That attached to the said academy is a *free* or *charity* school, for the education of orphan girls, without any religious distinction: That the charity part of said academy is under the immediate charge and superintendence of Madam De Kersaint: That at present there are forty-eight girls (orphans) in the charity school of the academy: That the city of Paris, in France, sent, as a donation to Madam Kersaint, a box of shoes, for the use of said orphan children, containing twelve dozen pairs, and that the box was landed in the city of New York, by the vessel that brought it over from France, and has been detained in said city of New York, by the custom-house officer, for nearly two years, for the reason that the customs due to the United States have not been paid, amounting, as your petitioner is informed, to about seventy dollars. Your petitioner therefore prays, that your honorable body will duly consider the matter, that the said box of shoes was sent as a charitable donation to poor friendless orphans; that the amount of the duty upon them, if required by the Government, would be almost if not full as much as the articles are worth, being as your petitioner supposes, of a coarse quality, and that if the duty should be insisted upon, the charitable act and intention of the donors will thereby become valueless.

Your petitioners, farther pray, that your honorable bodies will take such action in the matter, that the proper officer of the customs in New York may be directed to deliver up the said box and shoes, (which is marked "To Madam De Kersaint, Religious of the Sacred Heart, St. Louis,") without any of the charges to which the United States is entitled by law ; and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

CATHARINE THIEFRY, *Superior.*

H. DEKERSAINT, *Religious of the S. H.*

St. Louis, Missouri, December 17, 1839.